

# Surface Drainage - Main or Lateral

## PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service - practice code 608



### DEFINITION

A Main or Lateral drainage ditch is an open drainage ditch constructed to a designed size and grade.

### PRACTICE INFORMATION

The purpose (s) of a main or lateral drainage ditch is to:

- Dispose of excess surface and subsurface water
- Intercept and control ground water levels
- Provide leaching of saline or alkali soils
- Provide a combination of these functions

Sites for this practice are suitable for agriculture and have an outlet for the drainage water by either gravity or pumping.

This practice applies to ditches for disposal of surface and subsurface drainage water collected primarily by field ditches and subsurface drains.

Additional information including design criteria and specifications are in the local NRCS Field Office Technical Guide.